

Message Text

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INFO USUN NEW YORK 1554

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AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 8120

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - LAST 3 PARAS RENBRD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK, PFOR

SUBJECT: BHUTTO ON FOREIGN POLICY

1. IN AN AUGUST 3 ADDRESS AT THE COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE IN QUETTA PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO GAVE A WIDE-RANGING SPEECH ON PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN RELATIONS. HE SPOKE IN A MODERATE AND CAUTIOUS TONE ABOUT PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN AND GAVE WHAT STRUCK US AS A GREATER EMPHASIS THAN IN THE PAST TO FINDING A BILATERAL RATHER THAN A MULTI-LATERAL SOLUTION TO THE KASHMIR ISSUE.

2. PAK-INDIA: BHUTTO DESCRIBED PAKISTAN AS HAVING ENTERED A PERIOD OF EMPHASIS ON BILATERAL TALKS TO RESOLVE DISPUTES WITH OTHER NATIONS, RATHER THAN THROUGH THIRD PARTY INTERCESSION OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. HE SAID THAT THIS APPLIES TO KASHMIR BECAUSE PAKISTAN NOW PREFERS DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIA ON THIS ISSUE, CONFIDENTIAL

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RATHER THAN DEPENDENCE ON THE UNITED NATIONS. THE UNITED NATIONS HAD BEEN POWERLESS TO SOLVE ANY IMPORTANT DISPUTE, SUCH AS THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, THEREFORE THE ORGANIZATION IS ONLY AN ALTERNATE RATHER THAN A

PRIMARY FORUM FOR KASHMIR.

3. AFTER THE SIMLA AGREEMENT, PAKISTAN SHIFTED AWAY FROM EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR THE UN TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE KASHMIR ISSUE TO FOCUSING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A BILATERAL SOLUTION. SINCE THEN BHUTTO HAS BECOME MORE CRITICAL OF THE UN'S ABILITY TO PLAY A USEFUL ROLE ON KASHMIR. DURING AN INTERVIEW WITH A VISITING JOURNALIST SEVERAL MONTHS AGO THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED PAKISTAN HAD BEEN STYMIED ON FINDING AN ANSWER TO KASHMIR IN THE UN BY THE THREAT OF A BIG POWER VETO IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. WE BELIEVE THAT HIS QUETTA SPEECH REPRESENTS AN EVEN FURTHER MOVE FOR BHUTTO AWAY FROM CALLING FOR A UN IMPOSED SOLUTION TO THE MORE REALISTIC VIEW THAT IF AN ANSWER TO KASHMIR IS POSSIBLE, IT CAN ONLY COME THROUGH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

4. BHUTTO ADDED THAT HIS RECOGNITION OF THE UN'S IMPOTENCE ON IMPORTANT ISSUES IS NOT A DECISION TO COMPROMISE WITH INDIA OVER KASHMIR. HE SAID THE GOP WELCOMES A SPIRIT OF ACCOMMODATION, ADJUSTMENT AND COMPROMISE ON LESS FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS AND ADDED THAT IN A SIMILAR SPIRIT ALL OUTSTANDING INDO-PAK PROBLEMS, EXCEPTING KASHMIR, HAVE NOW BEEN SETTLED. THE PM ALSO REITERATED THAT HE IS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO ALLOWING INDIAN TRUCKS TO USE PAKISTANI ROADS TO TRANSPORT GOODS FOR INDO-IRANIAN TRADE. HE IS OBVIOUSLY SENSITIVE TO OPPOSITION CRITICISM CLAIMING TRANSIT RIGHTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO INDIA AND HAS CONTRADICTED THIS CONTENTION ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

5. PAK-AFGHAN: BHUTTO ANNOUNCED THAT DAOUD WILL VISIT PAKISTAN AT A STILL UNSPECIFIED DATE LATER IN AUGUST. HE TERMED HIS DISCUSSIONS IN KABUL AS "SATISFACTORY" BUT SAID HE COULD NOT ANTICIPATE THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE ADDED A GOOD BEGINNING HAD BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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MADE, "THE ICE HAD BEEN BROKEN AND TENSION HAD GONE DOWN." THE PM ALSO SAID THERE IS A CONGENIAL ATMOSPHERE FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF TALKS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN ISLAMABAD AND THAT HE WOULD WELCOME DAOUD AS THE HEAD OF A "NEIGHBORING MUSLIM COUNTRY AND A GREAT COUNTRY."

6. THE THIRD WORLD: BHUTTO PROMISED TO WRITE HIS SECOND ARTICLE ON THE THIRD WORLD LATER THIS YEAR. (HIS FIRST, ON PAK-TURKISH-IRANIAN RELATIONS, WAS RELEASED ON THE EVE OF THE IZMIR RCD MEETING.) HIS SECOND ARTICLE WILL SUGGEST WHAT THE THIRD WORLD SHOULD DO TO ASSERT ITS RIGHTS AND GAIN ITS LEGITIMATE POSITION.

7. MISCELLANEA; BHUTTO NOTED THAT PAKISTAN HAS HAD SUCCESSFUL RELATIONS WITH THE MUSLIM MIDDLE EAST BECAUSE OF HIS COUNTRY'S "CONSISTENT MORAL AND LOGAICAL POLICY." HE RECOGNIZED THATT THOUGH PAKISTAN IS ON THE PERIPHERY OF SOUTH EAST ASIA, IT NEVERTHELESS HAS GOOD LRELATIONS WITH THE NATIONS OF THAT AREA. HE ALSO TERMED PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH THE "BIG POWERS", EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA, AS "GOOD" AND ADDED THAT PAKISTAN HAS "VERY GOOD" BONDS WITH THE US AND CANADA. THE PM DID NOT MENTION PAK-BANGLADESH RELATIONS IN THIS SPEECH.
BYROADE

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